



## State of Utah

### Department of Natural Resources

MICHAEL R. STYLER  
*Executive Director*

### Division of Oil, Gas & Mining

JOHN R. BAZA  
*Division Director*

JON M. HUNTSMAN, JR.  
*Governor*

GARY R. HERBERT  
*Lieutenant Governor*

October 30, 2006

Lon Thomas  
Star Stone Quarries, Inc.  
4040 South 300 West  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84107

Re: Site Release, Star Stone Quarries, Inc., Santa Barbara Quarry, M0130006, Duchesne County, Utah

Dear Mr. Thomas:

On May 17, 2006, Paul Baker, a biologist on the Division's minerals staff inspected the Santa Barbara Quarry in Duchesne county for the purpose of determining whether the site meets revegetation success criteria. You should have previously received a copy of the inspection report.

Based on a comparison between vegetation cover in the reclaimed area and cover in a nearby undisturbed area with no overstory, the Division has determined that the quarry meets the revegetation success standards established under the Mined Land Reclamation Act. Other reclamation standards have previously been met. You are hereby released from further responsibilities under the Act for this site, including reclamation bonding or payment of permit fees.

If you decide to recommence mining operations at this site, you will need to submit a new Notice of Intention to Commence Small Mining Operations together with the permit fee and reclamation surety.

Thank you for your cooperation in reclaiming this mine site. If you have questions concerning this letter, please contact Paul Baker at 801-538-5261.

Sincerely,

Susan M. White  
Mining Program Coordinator  
Minerals Regulatory Program

SMW:PBB:pb  
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## Bond Release Findings

**Mine Name:** Santa Barbara  
**Operator:** Star Stone Quarries  
4040 South 300 West  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84107

**I.D. No.:** S0130006  
**Mineral Ownership:** Fee  
**Surface Ownership:** Fee  
**Permit Term:** Permit originally granted in 1999

**Disturbed Area:** 5 acres permitted  
**Regraded:** 5 acres  
**Reseeded:** 5 acres

**Acres Bonded:** No bond being held  
**Acres Proposed for Release:** 5 acres

### Surety

**Amount:** None  
**Form:** N/A  
**Renewable Term:** N/A

### **Setting and Premining Environment**

The site is located just west of Starvation Reservoir and just north of US Highway 40 in Duchesne county. Prior to mining, the site was probably used for wildlife habitat and grazing, but other activities in the area now include oil and gas drilling and housing for recreational use. The vegetation is mostly a pinyon/juniper community, but there are open areas with grasses, shrubs, and rock outcrops. Soils are generally thin and undeveloped. The area is likely to receive substantial use by big game. The topography is mostly flat, but there are small cliff faces adjacent to the ephemeral drainages.

### **Operations**

According to annual reports, operations were begun and ended in 1999. The report shows that the operator mined 100 tons of sandstone. Based on prior inspection reports, it does not appear there were any facilities when the quarry was in operation, and it is unlikely any deleterious materials were used to process the stone. The NOI says the operator was to remove sandstone with a trackhoe then split and stack the slabs for transportation off site. It appears topsoil was salvaged since the reclaimed site is covered with soil and not exposed bedrock.

### **Hole Plugging**

No holes were drilled.

### **Reclamation**

It appears reclamation was done in 2000. The site was graded to be nearly flat which matches the surrounding area. It is assumed the site was seeded in 2000.

### Mine Engineering

There are no public safety issues. The site is flat with no steep slopes or highwalls, and there are no shafts or other similar features.

### Hydrology

There are no drainages through the site, but adjacent channels are all ephemeral and lead to nearby Starvation Reservoir. There are no problems with accelerated erosion, and there are no dams or impoundments. There are also no remaining roads.

### Revegetation

The postmining land uses are wildlife habitat and grazing. Topsoil is derived from the native sandstone, and while probably naturally low in nutrients, it is likely to be similar to soils in nearby undisturbed areas.

I measured vegetation cover in the reclaimed area, an undisturbed area with no overstory, and an undisturbed area with pinyon/juniper overstory and very little understory. Values obtained were 11.8 percent for the reclaimed area, 13.6 percent for the undisturbed area with no overstory, and 18.5 percent for the pinyon/juniper community. Dominant species in the reclaimed area include rabbitbrush, Indian ricegrass, gooseberryleaf globemallow, snakeweed, and crested wheatgrass. There is some halogeton, but there are few other weeds.

There was little desirable vegetation in 2002 and a dramatic increase by 2004. The vegetation appears to be stable, and it has probably survived at least three growing seasons.

### **Recommendation**

Vegetation cover in the reclaimed area is about 87 percent of the cover in a nearby undisturbed area with no overstory. This exceeds the revegetation success standard, and based on this comparison, I recommend that the site be released.

There is not as much vegetation cover in the reclaimed area as in adjacent pinyon/juniper areas, and this has been the basis of the Division's previous denials of the operator's release requests; however, I believe a comparison with an area with no overstory is more appropriate.

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Inspector

*P. E. R. M.*

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Date

*10/16/06*